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LETTER DATED 16 APRIL 1994 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic issued on 16 April 1994.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar T. ALIYEV
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

Annex

[Original: Russian]

Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic on 16 April 1994

On 14 April 1994, the Secretary of the Special Commission of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Armenia on questions relating to Nagorny Karabakh, Mr. S. Zolyan, made a statement in which he said that the current situation necessitated the destruction of the military air bases of Azerbaijan located in Baku and Gyanja. Mr. Zolyan further stated that the operation could be carried out with ground forces alone.

In this connection, we deem it necessary to state the following.

Starting on 10 April 1994, the armed forces of Armenia, continuing their aggression against Azerbaijan, have launched a new large-scale offensive deep in Azerbaijani territory in the direction of Geranboy, Terter and Agdam.

At the same time, with a view to diverting attention from its latest statement, the well-established Armenian propaganda machine is falsely broadcasting to the whole world reports of alleged mass bombing attacks by the Azerbaijani air force against the town of Hankendi in the Nagorny Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

Such tricks by the Armenian side would be harmless if they were of a purely propagandistic character. However, in the present instance, these deliberate allegations are being used for more serious purposes. An official who is a member of the Parliament of the Republic of Armenia is attempting to justify the escalation of the aggression against Azerbaijan and its extension to new areas of Azerbaijan, including its major towns.

In so doing, Mr. Zolyan, speaking in his role as a military strategist and completely disregarding the fact that his arguments do not coincide with official Erevan's claim that it is not involved in the aggression against Azerbaijan, cynically states that the destruction of Azerbaijani military bases located hundreds of kilometres from the area of hostilities can be effected by ground forces alone. There can be no more revealing indication of Armenia's participation in the aggression against Azerbaijan and its strategic aims.